

Guard Stella Johnson
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On how her first WNBA training camp is going

"It's a lot of emotions and different pace for sure. It's awesome to play with some of the best players in the world. I mean, it's just [an] amazing experience."

On what it's been like between the time she was cut from Phoenix to now

"I tried to get into the gym whenever I could. So that was like three or four times a week. I didn't know what was going to happen. My agent kept telling me, 'just be ready. You never know. People are testing positive. They're opting out of the season.' So I tried to stay in shape. It was a surprise when Chicago called my agent and said like, 'you might have an opportunity with them.' So it was a great opportunity for that."

On if this is the first organized basketball she's played since the MAAC Tournament

"Yeah, I've just been working out. Just going to work and getting back and just playing immediately. It was just different. It was just from college you go into the pros which is a different pace and it's been difficult. Not difficult but just a different pace."

On if she feels more like a piece of the puzzle now instead of the big man on campus

"I'll have to see about that. I'm just taking orders from [Courtney] [Vander] Sloot and [Allie] Quigley and just trying to follow their pace and everything."

On her experience in the bubble

"I think it's been a good time so far. We've been trying to hang out as a team, but like safely at the same time. So having dinner together. I think that helps with our chemistry on the court too. But the bubble for me, it's just I like to chill. So, being in the hotel, going to practice, coming back and eating I think that's perfect for me. But also as a team we just spend time together when we try to and just keep our bodies in shape and rehab and all that."

On the one thing she couldn't come to the bubble without

"My pillow pet called Humphrey."

On being compared to Jia Perkins

"She was a great player. I remember watching her highlights. That's a great compliment. I've just got to match her intensity on defense and offense and try to help the team either way. Defensively, I think that's what I need to hone in on more is just being a defensive presence and bothering the point guards and the two guards too."

On getting prepared for her first game

"I'm just talking to the veterans, talking to the coaches, trying to take as much of their advice and just always asking them questions and looking at film. They always talk after practice about how we could do something better or how this was and you try to compare

our notes together. So it's just watching film with the coaches and then asking Sloot or Quigley, Diamond DeShields of what I need to do better. Or how did they defend this or how did they read this screen."

On what was going through her mind when she got the call from the Chicago Sky

"I was just shocked. I told my mom, she was really happy. Just shocked still to be here."

On her interactions with the backcourt veterans

"The first practice I went up to Sloot after every play that she did and I tried to take her advice. She's one of the best point guards in the league, so just copying what she does and mimicking what she does, reading off the screens and coming off the screens and then also talking to Quigley. How she reads the screens, comes off of it, always has an open shot. This is an amazing opportunity to be taught by them."

On if joining the Sky peaked her interest because of the veterans in the backcourt

"I always go on Instagram and see Sloots' passes or Quigley always winning the three-point contest and Diamond DeShields. I always watched these players in college and just being on the court with them and being able to play with them is just an amazing opportunity."

On one aspect of her game that she's working on to get prepared for the season

"Leading a team. I'm a young point guard and it's a new spot so it's just coming off of that. I think it's reading the screens and calling the plays. That's what I'm working on the most."

On the biggest difference between college and the pros

"I underestimated the pace. I need to go, keep going. Let's go. We're one of the fastest teams in

the league. And I think that's the pace and keeping up with the older players and how they play. They're way smarter with their IQ in basketball. I just have to keep up with that too."

On when she'll feel comfortable with the team

"That's hard to say. Our first game will come up in a couple of weeks so I think it's all up to me just being more comfortable with what I'm doing and how I'm playing and not being shy on the court. Like, I shot off the court so I've got to be out there and willing to take chances."

